

veto and help eliminate unnecessary and wasteful Government spending.

Happy birthday, President Reagan. You are finally getting the present you dreamed about.

#### THE MANY FACES OF POVERTY

(Mr. HILLARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of increasing the minimum wage for the working poor, a group of individuals who are helping themselves but because of inflation and laws passed by governing bodies, including this body, their wages have been eroded over the years. We must raise the minimum wage.

Families headed by women are much more likely to be poor and for a longer period of time. For example, 35 percent of families headed by women, as compared to 7 percent of two-parent households, fell below the poverty level in a given month in 1990.

These are the working poor, a group of individuals who have rejected welfare and who are trying hard to make it. We must take them out of poverty. An increase in the minimum wage is only the first step.

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#### PASS THE LINE-ITEM VETO

(Mr. EVERETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, in a speech to the City Club of Cleveland a little over 7 years ago, former President Ronald Reagan had this to say about the line-item veto: "No President should be faced with the all-or-nothing proposition. The time is here for giving the President the same thing that 43 Governors have—a line-item veto."

Mr. Speaker, the Contract with America calls for a vote on the line-item veto. Hopefully this measure will pass with the same measure of bipartisan support that unfunded mandates did.

President Reagan was right 7 years ago and his words are true today.

Republicans are working hard to deliver on our promise to the American people to give the President a tool to help fight waste and redundancies in the Federal budget.

#### INCREASE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. WATT of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the President on his proposal to increase the minimum wage and encourage my colleagues to have hearings on the pro-

posal and move it to passage immediately. Over two-thirds of working people making the minimum wage are adults over 21 years of age. They work 40 hours a week and still live below the poverty level.

Let us be blunt: All the current minimum wage and 40 hours of work will get you is poverty. That is shameful. While the rich get richer over the last 15 years, the real value of the minimum wage has fallen 27 percent since 1979. If we expect working people to be responsible, we need work to pay. Let us pass the President's proposal and increase the minimum wage.

#### END THE BOTTOMLESS PIT: ENACT THE LINE-ITEM VETO

(Mr. HORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, for decades now Congress has treated the American taxpayer as an unlimited source for revenue. Congress has spent millions and ultimately billions of dollars on programs and policies which have limited our freedom and imperiled the dignity of millions of Americans by entrapping them on welfare.

The spending habits of this body over the last quarter century has come at a terrible cost. The Federal Government has racked up almost \$5 trillion in debt. This is the height of irresponsibility. It is an utter disregard for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, today we will vote on the line-item veto. This measure will give the President the power to review our budgets and veto unneeded projects, and thus help eliminate budgetary fat.

Last November the American people sent a clear message to this body. They said they were tired of the waste, tired of the deficits, tired of the mismanagement, and thus tired of Government.

Mr. Speaker, in the last 4 weeks this body has worked on a bipartisan basis to pass unfunded mandates reform and a balanced budget amendment. Now we must pass the line-item veto on a similar basis and stop treating the American taxpayer as an unlimited bottomless pit.

#### CUT FAT, NOT GROWTH

(Mr. WISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, make no mistake about it, the President's budget coming to Congress today contains some serious cuts. For West Virginia, the Appalachian Regional Commission, which is the underpinning of so many community development projects, is cut at least one-third. The Economic Development Administration, which recently provided the underpinnings as part of the Swearingen aircraft industry deal, that would be cut 27 percent.

Veterans should know they would be basically protected. Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid, so important to our State legislature right now, would be protected. A class tax cut would affect thousands of West Virginians, and would be paid for.

Significantly, this budget will continue the deficit reduction pattern of reducing the deficit by one-half in relation to our economy and with no tax increase this year.

I understand this budget will only be the starting point and there will be additional cuts, but I do hope that people understand we cannot be cutting growth at the same time we are cutting fat.

#### SUPPORT H.R. 2, THE LINE-ITEM VETO

(Mr. HEINEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEINEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2, the line-item veto.

With the passage of the balanced budget amendment, the 104th Congress has taken an important first step in controlling rampant Federal spending. Now we must take the next step—we must give the President the line-item veto.

This past November, the people of my district—and the people all across America—voted for change. They sent a message loud and clear to Washington—it is about time we listened.

Congress has abused the trust of the American people over and over again, spending far beyond its means. Now it is time to stop this runaway Federal spending and to regain the trust of the taxpayers. We can balance the budget. We can bring some fiscal restraint to the Federal budget process.

It is time to change business as usual in this city. It is time to let the people know that we are serious about making this Government work for them. It is time to give the President of the United States the same power that 43 Governors have to control spending.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to pass the line-item veto, and I say to my colleagues today—just do it. Vote for H.R. 2, vote for the line-item veto—vote for common-sense fiscal reform.

#### LINE-ITEM VETO A NECESSARY TOOL

(Ms. HARMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the line-item veto. Opponents of the line-item veto say they believe it would take power away from Congress and give it to the President. But I see it as a way of taking power away from pork-barrel programs and giving it to people who want to cut